

In – Fur – Nation

Your Guide to the World of Furry Fandom

Volume 14, Number 2

Our Motto: *All The News We Get, We Print!*

Summer, 2003



Picture c. 2003 Disney/Pixar

I am a Nice Shark.

ConFurence 2003 bounced on by like a tumbleweed, and with it came some big changes. You'll find much more about what went on and what's going to happen, later in this issue. But first, hear now the news...

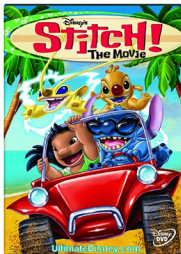
Fishy fishy fishy fish... *Finding Nemo* from Disney and Pixar has found major success this summer. Unlike many of the big "anchor" pictures of this summer, *Nemo* not only premiered well, but it's holding up well, losing very little of its box office power from week to week. In fact, *Nemo* was the first film released in 2003 to make more than \$10 million a weekend for more than six weeks in a row, and it now sits as the #1 box office moneymaker of 2003. As of this writing, *Nemo* has supplanted *Shrek* as the #2 biggest animated film of all time, and by some estimates *The Lion King's* crown as #1 is within sight. Stay tuned...

Running in front of *Nemo* in theaters is the first trailer for Disney's next 2D animated film, *Brother Bear*. Set to premier this November (the actual date in the month is in flux), the new film follows the adventures of a Native American lad named Kenai, who finds himself transformed into a bear. It seems that Kenai's older brother was killed by a grizzly, and Kenai went out seeking revenge – something the gods were none too pleased with. Now it's up to the transformed Kenai to find "the place where the light touches the earth" so he can become human again. Helping him along the way are a young bear cub named Koda, and two rather ditzy moose brothers named Rutt and Tuke. Voice actors for the film include **Joaquin Phoenix** as Kenai, newcomer **Jeremy Suarez** as Koda, and **Dave Thomas** and **Rick Moranis** as Rutt and Tuke – that's right folks, "Bob and Doug McKenzie" as two Canadian mooses, eh? As with Disney's *Tarzan*, *Brother Bear* features new songs by **Phil Collins** on the soundtrack.

But before that... this coming October 7th marks the release of *The*

Lion King Special Platinum Edition direct to tape and DVD. This new version of the film features a brand new song sequence with new animation – and word has been making the rounds that the song is Zazu's "The Morning Report" from *The Lion King Broadway* version. This also marks the first time that *The Lion King* – in any form – has been made available on DVD. Those who pre-order the *Special Platinum* from their local Disney Store or the Disney Catalog should receive a special collection of *Lion King* lithographs as a bonus.

And while we're at it: In February of 2004 look for *The Lion King 1 ½ – Hakuna Mutata*, alternately known as *The Lion King 3 – Hakuna Mutata*. This direct-to-video "re-imagining" tells the same story as *The Lion King* and *Simba's Pride* – but tells them both from the point of view of Timon and Pumbaa. We learn the origin of these two characters, how they met, and how they came to know Simba the lion and join in his adventures.



Picture c. 2003 Walt Disney Co.

Speaking of video... it's almost time for the release of *Stitch! The Movie*. August 26th in fact it comes to Disney DVD and video. Serving as an introduction to the upcoming *Lilo & Stitch* TV series, the new movie follows what happens when other "experiments" like Stitch (625 of them, remember!) find their way to Earth. Again, pre-ordering the video from a Disney Store or Disney magazine gets you a special *Lilo & Stitch* cast lithograph.

Blasting into the universe somewhere near YOU comes... *Duck Dodgers* in the 24th and 1/2 Century – *The TV Series*. Yes. The

folks at Warner Brothers bring us Daffy Duck as the most brilliant military mind in the galaxy – or so he says. Along for the ride are Porky Pig as the Eager Young Space Cadet, and of course Martin the Martian creating trouble. It all comes to Cartoon Network on Saturdays starting August 23rd. Check out the interactive web site at www.duckdodgers.com.

Premiering this September on Canada's Teletoon Channel is the new series *Silverwing*, based on the best-selling books by **Kenneth Oppel** about a rebellious young bat. No word yet on if or when there is to be an American release.

Trying what has worked before, Universal Pictures and Dreamworks SKG bring us a new live-action **Dr. Seuss** movie. This time around, it's the classic *The Cat in the Hat*, and this time around it's **Mike Myers** (he of *Austin Powers* and *Shrek*) who gets to be all done up in fur and make-up! As with the *Grinch* movie, the producer is **Brian Grazer**, and this time the director is **Bo Welch**. The film (and all of its inevitable tie-in merchandise!) comes to us this Thanksgiving.

Two new furry TV shows with a decidedly adult slant are currently making waves on cable station TNN. First off of course is the return of *Ren & Stimpy* (now with creator **John Kricfalusi** back in the fold). Then there's *Gary the Rat*, starring the voice of **Kelsey Grammer**. It seems that a New York lawyer named Gary has found himself transformed into a giant rat... but he's not gonna let that in his practice, or his ambitions!

Coming out of nowhere and into theaters this fall is *Good Boy!* from MGM. Here's the idea of this live-action film: All the dogs on planet Earth are really invaders from a planet around the star Sirius, who've been... distracted from their mission. Therefore the Great Dane of Sirius sends his best agent, Canid 3942 (the voice of **Matthew Broderick**) to Earth to whip the dogs back into shape. Problems arise when his ship crash-lands, and 3942 winds up befriended by a lonely young earth boy named Owen (**Liam Aiken**). Look for this comedy/sci-fi adventure to premier on October 10th.

A return to the big screen this fall for both director **Joe Dante** and cartoon star **Bugs Bunny**. In *Looney Tunes: Back in Action*, Bugs and his well-known cartoon buddies join a diverse group of live-action humans (among them **Brendan Fraser**, **Jenna Elfman**, and **Steve Martin**) in a global search for a missing father and a fabulous jewel. Look for it from Warner Brothers (of course) on November 14th. Meanwhile, look for the comic book adaptation from DC comics in late October. While you're at it, you might look for *Looney Tunes – The Ultimate Visual Guide* by **Jerry Beck** (in hardcover, from DK Publishing).

Coming soon as a mid-season replacement on UPN is *Game Over*, a new CGI series from **Carsey-Werner-Mandabach**. The comedy series follows the lives and adventures of a family who live inside a video-game universe filled with action heroes, extreme sports, and monsters – including the family pet, a purple dragon-dog who smokes big stogies and gives attitude. **Patrick Warburton** (*Emperor's New Groove*) and Academy Award winner **Marisa Tomei** provide the voices of the family parents.

Currently in production at Dreamworks, *Over the Hedge* is a new CGI film based on the well-known comic strip created by **Michael Fry** and **T. Lewis**. Like the strip, the film follows the adventures of a smart-mouthed con-artist raccoon named R.J. (voiced by **Jim**

Carrey) and a sensitive, naive turtle named Verne (voice by **Gary Shandling**). The film is currently scheduled for release in November of 2005.

Also in production at Dreamworks is *Father of the Pride*, a new CGI TV series about a family of white lions who work as performers in the Siegfried and Roy show at the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas. You read that right. Voice talent includes **John Goodman** as Larry, the current leader of the pride; **Carl Leneier** as Samot, Larry's father-in-law and nemesis; and **Orlando Jones** as Snack, a gopher who is Larry's best friend. It's set to premier on NBC in the fall of 2004.

Emmy-winning animators **Joe Clasen** and **Susan Ishida** (*Jimmy Neutron*, *Casper & the Ghostly Trio*) who also worked on the IMAX animated film *Santa vs. The Snowman*, have returned with a new project: *Wonderlens*, a series of animated DVD's that link up to interactive web sites. First up is *Aquarium of the Aliens*, where exotic undersea creatures live and play on a far-off "amusement planet". Find out more at www.wonderlens.com.

When you're off on the web, take a look at <http://www.wordware.com/ghostwarrior> for a sneak preview of a new CGI furry animated film currently in the works. *Kaze – Ghost Warrior* is set for release in late 2003.

Warner Home Video has released all three of **Nick Park's** *Wallace & Gromit* adventures (*A Grand Day Out*, *The Wrong Trousers*, and *A Close Shave*) on a single DVD called *Wallace & Gromit: The Incredible Adventures*.

Coming this September from Software Sculptures is *Cat Soup* Volume 1 on DVD. In this new anime, little kitten Nyanko's soul has been stolen by Death – so she and her brother Nyatta (don't ask us how) journey to "The Other Side" to get it back! Awaiting them there are many strange and surreal adventures.

This October, Anime Works brings us **Osamu Tezuka's** *Jungle Emperor Leo* on DVD. Leo the white lion, ruler of his African realm, must bring together all of the animals of his kingdom to resist the invasion of human hunters in their realm!

Here to slaughter cute funny animals for your fun and pleasure, web favorites *Happy Tree Friends* have released their very first DVD, *Happy Tree Friends Volume 1: First Blood*. If you've never seen, you'll never understand... It's coming this October from StudioWorks Entertainment.

The next episode of the animated DVD series *Lenny & Sid* is called *Tis the Reason*. Created by former Disney animator **Tony Bancroft** and voice actor **Ben Chambers**, the new DVD will be available at Christian bookstores and retailers everywhere starting October 14th.

The August issue of *Animation Magazine* (with **Arnold Schwarzenegger** on the cover) includes an interesting feature: The "Pitch Party" for 2003. Animation companies and amateurs all over the world were invited to submit "pitches" for possible new animated TV series (sample animation, story outlines, press packets, etc.) to a panel of animation experts for consideration.

Interestingly, among the roughly 96 entries described in *Animation*, more than a quarter of them are furry-oriented! Too many to list here... titles like *Bazille & Rathbone*, *Salamander Joe*, *CozEffect*, *Flare*, *Space Cadets*, *Crim-Animals*, *Gama Duck*, *Rusty Jones*, *Yin-n-Yang*, *Natural Forces*... and many many more. Pick up the issue and check 'em out. If you like any of them, write the creators and tell them so – they can use the encouragement!

Currently on the *Thundercats* news front: *The Dogs of War*, a new 5-issue mini-series, is out from DC Comics/Wildstorm. In a far future setting after the events of *Thundercats: The Return*, Lion-O is the elderly ruler of the Thundercats... suddenly faced with a new threat as a race of war-loving canines descend from the sky with the goal of conquest. The full-color series is written by **John Layman**, with art and covers by **Brett Booth**. Meanwhile, the *Thundercats: Reclaiming Thundera* mini-series is available in a new trade paperback, also from Wildstorm. And meanwhile... the *Icons of Evil* series is a set of one-shot full-color comics, each one detailing the origin of one of the evil Mumm-Ra's evil minions. First up was *Beast Man*, followed by the recently released *Mer-Man*. And even more *Thundercats* news: In mid-October look for the first issue of *Thundercats: Hammerhand's Revenge*, a new 5-issue full-color miniseries.

The premise is simple: Bear is a teddy bear who walks and talks. Looshkin is a cat who does everything in his power to maim, sicken, and psychologically ruin the bear. What is it? It's *Bear*, a new (and bizarre) black & white comic series by **Jamie Smart**, brought to us by the folks at Slave Labor Graphics.

From Marvel's Tsunami imprint (a line of manga-style comics) comes the full-color *Quest #1* by **Andy Watson** and **Yuji Iwahara**. Young Katherine West (aka Quest), her friend Kaori, and an intelligent ant eater named Laki head off on an adventure to find Quest's father, who disappeared while searching for some ancient, mystical scrolls.

New from Antarctic Press is *The Courageous Princess Masterpiece Edition*, which collects all three issues of **Rod Espinosa's** acclaimed (and very furry) fantasy series in a single hardcover book. Also look for the *Gold Digger Pocket Manga #10*, which collects *Gold Digger* Volume 2 issues 41 thru 45 in a single digest-sized book.

Social issues in a furry comic book. In *Petey* by **Jeff Kilpatrick**, Petey is a young turtle who escapes his abusive home and goes on a quest to "Love City" to find himself a better life. In black & white, the comic also features a list of resources for abused kids and runaways.

With the success of the newest *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* anime series on TV, it's no surprise that it's followed by a new full-color comic books series, this time written by **Peter David** – with art help by **LeSean**, **Sander**, and **Ruffolo** – and published by Dreamwave Productions. Interestingly, in this new version of the story, April O'Neal is a lab assistant instead of a reporter.

The first three graphic novels based on the *Werewolf: The Apocalypse* FRP game series, "Bone Gnawers", "Black Furies", and "Children of Gaia", have been collected in a single-volume trade paperback called (take a breath) *Werewolf: The Apocalypse: Fang and Claw Volume 1: Raging Fury*. Whew! Full color, in soft-cover, from Moonstone Press.

News for elf and wolf fans: This year marks the 25th anniversary of *Elfquest*, and in celebration **Richard & Wendy Pini** have re-released the original issue #1 in a brand-new full-color edition from DC comics. The new edition also features an interview with the Pinis discussing future storylines. DC is also promoting the new *Elfquest: Wolftrider* trade paperback series, which collects various storylines from various incarnations of *Elfquest* over the years and presents them in chronological order.

And now for something rather different: *Puffed*, a new 3-issue black & white comic miniseries, follows the adventures of a hapless bloke named Aaron. Aaron's having the worst night of his life: Caught his girlfriend with his worst enemy, and now he's being hunted by mobsters AND a psychotic theme-park janitor. All the while trapped inside of a big, plushie dragon-suit he can't get out of. Yes. Fursuit nightmares brought to you by writer **John Layman** and the folks at Image Comics.

The sequel to *Hip Flask: Unnatural Selection* entitled *Hip Flask: Elephant Men* is available now from Active Images. Following the adventures of Hip Flask – hippo detective – and his fellow genetic constructs as they try to survive in the world of humans, this 32-page full-color comic is available with 4 different covers all produced by comic artist **Ladronn**. Also, *Unnatural Selection* is now available in a limited-edition "widescreen" hardcover.

The first six issues of **Ken Knudtsen's** truly bizarre black & white comic, *My Monkey's Name is Jennifer*, are now available collected in a single trade paperback from Slave Labor Graphics. New stories are featured as well.

Aspen Entertainment, **Michael Turner's** new comic-book company, is presenting its product line in a three-issue introductory miniseries called *Aspen*. The preview includes a look at *Ekos*, Turner's new full-color science fiction comic series with a number of interesting non-human characters in the lead.

For another science fiction comic with lots of aliens, check out *Runners*, a new black & white series written and drawn by **Sean Wang**. The first story arc, "Bad Goods", is available now from Serve Man Press.

Gemstone Publishing continues to present classic Disney comics, now with a new title out, *Donald Duck Adventures #1*. The first issue of this full-color series features a Donald Duck cover by **William Van Horn**.

Ben Dunn brings us *The Collected Mighty Tiny: Tales of the Old Empire Volume 1* in trade paperback from Sentai Studios. The story follows the military adventures of a nation of mice – whose fate rests in the hands of two young boys.

The latest *Usagi Yojimbo* trade paperback by **Stan Sakai** not only features the entire "Duel at Kitanoji" storyline (in which Usagi's old teacher must face his mortal enemy in a duel), but also a collection of preliminary sketches and drawings by Stan. Plus, an appreciation by *Mad Magazine* cartoonist **Jack Davis**.

Classic **Don Bluth** video-disc games return – in comic book form! In full color even, thanks to CrossGen Comics. In *Space Ace* #1 (of 6), **Dexter (the Ace)** is still suffering from frequent transformations into his geeky younger self – and a deadly alien enemy may hold the key to curing him. In *Dragon's Lair* #1 (also of 6), the dragon Singe returns, bent on revenge against the knight Dirk the Daring and Princess Daphne.

Paleo: Tales of the Late Cretaceous by **Jim Lawson** has been re-released as a trade paperback by Empty Sky. The black & white comic follows the realistic life-and-death adventures of several dinosaurs.

New trade paperback editions of the collected *Tank Girl* Volume 1, *Tank Girl* Volume 2, and *Tank Girl: Apocalypse* are available from Titan Publishing. All in glorious full color, of course.

Here's the idea behind CrossGen Comics' new mini-series *Tales of the Realm*: Not only humans but elves, dragons, ogres and other beasts actually exist – as actors in a modern-day alternate Hollywood. The 6-issue full-color mini follows the lives of a group of actors in a new TV series "Tales of the Realm". The comic – not the TV show! – premieres in September.

Finally breaking loose on its own: After spending time as a back-up series, **Stan Winston's Realm of the Claw** premieres as a full-color six-issue miniseries this Halloween. Powerful cat-gods come up against ruthless hunters and industrialists... as they have over several lifetimes.

Southpaw is a new comic in trade paperback format, following the life of a boxing tiger who fights robots. Yes, that's right. Created by **Scott Morse**, it's coming soon from Adhouse Books.

In *9 Lives* by **D. Ronzo**, the Egyptian god Anubis has returned to wreck havoc... but he hasn't counted on the high priestess of Bast to stand in his way! In black & white, from Neko Press (of course!).

Komikwerks is a new digest-sized collection of independent black & white comics. Volume 1 features *Dewclaw* (by **Matt Johnson**), *Samurai Koimandos* (by **Miki, Wellman, and Hathaway**), *Martin's Misdirection* (by **James Burks**), and *Masterminds* (by **Sowd, Karutz, and Denning**) as the major entries of anthropomorphic interest.

The prize for the longest name of a comic book has got to go to this one: *Things To Do In A Retirement Home Trailer Park When You're 29 and Unemployed*. Whew! What is it? A new black & white comic (with color washes) about, you guessed it,

life in a trailer park, for young and old – who happen to be represented, at least many of them, by anthropomorphics. It's brought to you by writer and artist **Aneurin Wright** through Welsh el Dorado Press. It's available as a mini-comic right now, with a full-sized version set to premiere later this year. Check it out at www.welshelordorado.com.

Furry Denial 101: It's not furry, or even anthropomorphic, it's just an allegory. So says Nubian Queen Comics creator **Bernyce W. Talley** says of her new black & white comic *Le' Menagerie*. Well, check it out: After being bitten by a cursed lion, a young African-American guy finds himself transforming into a lion-human hybrid. Furry, or no? Decide for yourself – ask for the comic at your local shop.

In an alternate America during World War II, a winged lion with massive destructive powers is befriended by a small boy in New York. That's the premise of *David and Goliath*, a new full-color bimonthly series created by **Jay Ju** and illustrated by **Castellani, Griffo, and Tartaglia**. It's coming this September from Image Comics.

Pixar Animation storyboard artist **Enrico Casarosa** has created a new black & white furry comic celebrating two of his great loves: European comics, and the animation of **Hayao Miyazaki**. And so he brings us *Mia* (from Monkeysuit Press), the story of a young cat in Italy who happens to be a fantastic pilot – whether flying against competitors, or against the forces of fascism. Each issue also features interesting tidbits from the history of flight. Look for *Mia* this November, or check out www.monkeysuit.com.

MU Press brings us *Wild* #1, a new adults-only black & white furry comic series. The first issue features romantic stories and art by **Edd Vick, Paul Kidd, Mark Moore, Steve Corbett, and Sara Wheeler**, while issue #2 also features the work of **Robbie Conley** and **Kjartan Arnorsson**. For more adult stuff from MU, look for *Jim & Pica*, *The Collected Stories*, a new collection of outrageous erotica by **Kjartan Arnorsson**; and issue #3 of the fantasy/comedy *Hugo* by **Milton Knight**.

It's time once again for Radio Comix to bring us another *Hit the Beach* furry swimsuit collection, this time around featuring pin-ups by **Joe Rosales, Megan Giles, Trump, Diana Sprinkle, Daria McGrain, Michael Vega, Terrie Smith**, and many more, all with a cover by **Matt David**. Meanwhile, all five issues of the black & white miniseries *Saiko and Lavender* (by **Michael Vega and Diana X. Sprinkle**) have been collected in a new trade paperback. Over at Sin Factory, look for the release of **James Hardiman's Ups and Downs**, which collects all the segments of "The Ups and Downs of Interspecies Sex" (from the pages of *Genus*) in a single comic.

In a new split-off from the main story line, Shanda Fantasy Arts presents *Extinctioners: Tales of the Endangered* #1. This new black & white comic features background stories on many of the *Extinctioners* characters, as interpreted by creator **Shawntae Howard** as well as **Jesus Tello Tello, Terrie Smith, Malcolm Earle**, and others. Meanwhile, longtime comic fan/creator and anime promoter **James G. Lomax** has a new project with Shanda – go to www.idrevit.com/mousetrap for the latest news. For adult fans, look up the illustrated novel

The Iron Star by Ursa Major Award winner **Brock Hoagland**. In a furry world where gods walk among the mortals, a meteor falls from the sky and wrecks havoc upon society. The book features illustrations by **Terrie Smith**, and others.

A new trade paperback entitled *Carl Barks – Conversations* features a collection of interviews with the late *Uncle Scrooge* creator, talking to his good friend and editor **Donald Ault** (and others) about his life, his art, and his characters.

Ursa Major Award nominee **Michel Gagne** has returned with a new hardcover picture book, *The Towers of Numar*. Among an alien race who are permanently attached to the ground – but can move around anyway – young Meeka is a famous artist and sculptor. Her next project, though, promises really big things – and will change not only the fate of her world, but the nature of the universe itself. Find out more at www.gagneint.com. Also look for information of Michel's new DVD of his animated short films.

Fans of *Kingdom Hearts*, the video game that combines anime characters and classic Disney characters in a sprawling sword & sorcery adventure, will want to check out *The Kingdom Hearts Visual Art Collection*, in hardcover. It features full-color character sketches, background paintings, and alternate characters from various extra game modules.

Jason, the creator of the silent funny-animal comic *Shhhhhhh!*, has returned with *The Iron Wagon*, a murder mystery set in the Norwegian countryside. Drawn and colored in two-tone, it features Jason's iconic funny animal characters.

Award-winning author **Toni Morrison** and her son **Slade** have produced a new series of illustrated books called "Who's Got Game", which presents new and contemporary takes on Aesop's fables. First up is *Who's Got Game: Ant or Grasshopper*, followed by *Who's Got Game: Lion or Mouse*. Both published by Simon and Schuster.

It might seem hard to believe, but the famous over-sized pooch named *Marmaduke* turns 50 this year! Fifty! The celebrate the golden anniversary, a special hardcover collection, *Top Dog: Marmaduke at 50*, is being released through Ballantine Books. Featuring the works of **Brad Anderson**, and commentary by *Garfield* creator **Jim Davis**.

New fantasy author **Christopher Paolini** is raising eyebrows, having not only written his first novel right out of high school, but created the interior maps and the front-cover illustration himself. *Eragon*, the first book in the Inheritance Trilogy, chronicles the adventures of a young human, Eragon, who sets out to avenge the death of his uncle. Helping him along the way is a young dragon named Saphira, whom Eragon raised from a baby. The book is available in hardcover from Random House, this September.

In other fantasy news, author **John Vornholt** brings us *The Troll King* trilogy – fantasy novels in which trolls and ogres are the good guys, and elves and fairies are hissable villains! The first two volumes, *The Troll King* and *The Troll Queen*, have already been released by Aladdin Books (an imprint of Simon & Schuster), with the third volume coming out this December.

Newly stumbled across: Comic book inker **Mark McKenna** has struck out on his own, creating a new series of illustrated

children's books. *Banana Tail* is the story of a young monkey who eats so many bananas, one day his tail turns yellow with brown spots! His best friends are misfits as well. A zebra colt who's fur pattern is plaid, not striped, and a young rhino who's skin changes color with her mood. Together they learn the fine art of surviving in the world when you're a little bit different from the rest... You can find out more about the books at www.bananatail.com.

New from Sofawolf Press is the furry anthology *Best in Show: Fifteen Years of Outstanding Furry Fiction*, edited by **Fred Patten**. This 450 page anthology of furry fiction features twenty-six of the best stories from long-running literary magazines such as *Anthrolations*, *PawPrints Fanzine*, *The Ever-Changing Palace*, *Tales of the Tai-Pan Universe*, and *Yarf!* It includes stories by **Lawrence Watt-Evans**, **Watts Martin**, **Michael H. Payne**, **Gene Breshears**, **Brock Hoagland**, **Mel. White**, **Phil Geusz**, and many others. With a full color cover by **Ursula Vernon** and several interior illustrations from the original publications. The book also features informative introductions by **Fred Patten**, **Gene Breshears**, **Phil Geusz**, and **Tim Susman**. Order it from www.sofawolf.com.

And now for something different: A comic book birthday card. **Brian Clopper** has created this one-shot comic following the adventures of one Marvin the Dragon – who, instead of hoarding treasure, hoards various knick-knacks that he's bought through internet actions. The comic comes with an envelope for mailing it as a birthday card. In black & white, from Behemoth Books.

From www.gamerankings.com: "Brute Force" is a new action-packed, sci-fi squad-based shooter [game] played from a third person perspective. Instantly take control of any one of your four distinctly skilled squad members to tackle any situation. Whether the encounter requires stealth, tactics, sniping, or just "Brute Force", your team is ready". It should be mentioned that one member of the team, Brutus, is a great big reptilian. By Microsoft, made for the X-Box platform.

New from 3DO for the Sony Playstation 2 is *Shifters*, a battle game where players can switch to anthro-animal forms. It's similar to *Bloody Roar*, of course, but this time in a more fantasy setting – with weapons!

Furries and fashion: Red Tango offers a variety of clothing, accessories, and printed items featuring decidedly hip and retro-looking furry artwork. Look up their catalog on line at www.tangoland.com.

Animator **Dave Shelton** has a new line of comics and animation, featuring *Snuggly Bear* and the *T-Shirt Kids*. Currently he's pitching for a TV series project. Find out more at his web site, www.snugglybearkids.com.

Where to even start... *Deep Fried*, *Live* proudly boasts itself as the only cooking show hosted by an appetizer. That would be Tako, the talking octopus, your guide through this on-line animated cooking show, which actually presents real recipes – albeit presents them in a very strange manner. It's brought to you by the folks at 8-Legged Entertainment – and you can find it on the web at www.8legged.com.

Fans of Neopets should check out www.beckettanime.com to find out about the new *Neopets* magazine. It features coverage of the *Neopets* trading card game, tips and tricks, a collectible poster, art galleries, and much more.

On-line furry comic stuff we've come across: Check out *Draconis* artwork (**Francine** and **Craig Prestinini**) at www.draconis-art.com, **Tom Neely's** comics and animation at www.willdestroyyou.com (love the title, man!), and the adventures of *Turner the Turtle* at Blue Streak Comics (www.members.aol.com/rzhrd27)

And now for something different: Walking animatronics. Lucky the Dinosaur is a new feature at Disney's California Adventure in Anaheim. He's a free-standing and free-roaming animatronic character who interacts with the public (with the help of his human friend, Chandler the Dinosaur Handler). Besides having a wide range of facial expressions and poses, Lucky can even grasp objects with his mouth – like a pen, for signing autographs. Lucky wanders about the Hollywood Backlot at Disney's DCA, and rumor has it he may soon make an appearance at Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando, Florida.

<from *Fur and Feathers*>

In the furry collection department, for any fan who enjoys toy stuff plush animals or cartoon memorabilia, you have to "wag your tails" about Hasbro Inc.'s "Furreal Friends": Cats designed to be very close to real-life felines. These little furballs are enjoyable and if you have any kids, especially girls, you have to get them. So either paw your local toy store, or check out www.hasbro.com for more details.

Furry Stuff still has ConFurence Stuff! The original ConFurence General Store (for ConFurences 0 – 10) has moved to the new Furry Stuff web portal. Check them out at www.furystuff.com to find out more – very soon, pictures of what's available will be up on-line. Three of the popular ConFurence T-Shirt designs are still available for a limited time: "Furries in Force" (black on honey-color) by **Eric Schwartz** from CF7, "Furries in Love" (black and pink on grey) by **Rachael Cawley** from CF9, and "Sydney's World" (Sydney on a colored globe on green) by **Ken Sample** from CF10. Plus, a very few of **Mitch Beiro's** colorful "Furries in Space" T-shirts remain (write for sizes available). They also still offer the *ConFurence Seven Highlights* Video, as well as the *ConFurence Eight – Music and Mirth* and *ConFurence Nine – Furries in Love* highlights videos too! And coming soon, a special combination video from CF5 and CF6! Not to mention many cool prints and extra Souvenir Books from past ConFurences! To find a complete list, visit the Furry Stuff web site, or send them an SASE at: Furry Stuff, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958.

Looking for **NEW** ConFurence Stuff? Well, the home page for **The ConFurence Group**, home of ConFurence 2003 (www.confurence.net) is down right now, while head fur **Darrel Exline** takes stock and counts the inventory for The ConFurence Store. When he's done, you'll have plenty of opportunity to buy classic t-shirts, videos, and other goodies from the ConFurences of the 21st Century. Keep your eyes on

the web site for more details.

Oh Please, Don't Let It End This Way! What you hold in your paws is the last issue of *In-Fur-Nation* that the ConFurence Group will be mailing out to its members, at least for the time being. If you want to **keep on getting In-Fur-Nation** mailed to you, you'll need to **subscribe**. And why not? *In-Fur-Nation* is proud of its role in the furry community, presenting you the whole length and breadth of furry: Not just comic books, animated films, picture books, and the rest, but the growing number of furry-themed fan conventions popping up around the continent, and around the world! So, we hear you say, how do I keep up my **Subscription to In-Fur-Nation**? We're glad you asked! A subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* will bring you even *more* of what furry fans are looking for around the globe. Find out what to look for, and where to go! It's brought right to your doorstep three times a year (spring, summer, and fall), and all for a whopping **\$5.00** for a year's subscription. That's right, for a year. Just send a check made out to "Furry Stuff" (and note it's for *In-Fur-Nation*), or heck, just send a \$5.00 bill in a darkened envelope. (Trust us, it's an old tradition in the 'zine community. It works). To subscribe, to find out more info, or to send us notes for our Furry News, write us at: In-Fur-Nation, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958.

A Note to the staff members of our many Furry Conventions: Hey! We wanna help you get the word out! Having a cool-looking web site is a neat thing, but remember: There are still a significant number of fans out there (furry and otherwise) who don't use the World Wide Web, or who don't use it to its full potential. For them, there's this cool old thing folks on the Internet call *Snail Mail*. That's where we come in! Send us information, and let us help you get the word out to over 1,000 furry fans, artists, dealers, and publishers in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan... Look below for our reasonable ad rates, and don't forget... send us text blurbs and you get in for free!

A Request to Our Readers: Hey, got a favorite comic or book store that carries your favorite furry titles, or that you wish would carry more? Give us their address! We'll send them a copy of *In-Fur-Nation* each quarter, and keep them abreast of the kind of comics and media that you would like to see on their shelves! Remember, they can't order it if they don't know it's out there! As an alternate: Know of any good comic review zines or web sites that might be looking to trade issues?

Guess what? In-Fur-Nation is looking for Field Reporters! As an on-going feature, we're going to present profiles of furry creators and furry-oriented companies that are helping to promote products and media of interest to funny animal fans all over. So, like to help out? Know a comic book creator, animator, publisher, or other such person in the field who'd like to discuss what furries mean to them, or to the world? Talk to them, write down what they say... then give us a write-up, about 300-500 words, and we'll include it as a blurb in an upcoming INF, and give you credit for it. [We do maintain the right to edit for clarity and length, mind you.] And hey, we're looking for **furry convention reviews and anecdotes** too! Send hard copies to the Furry Stuff address above, or you can e-mail your submission to **Red O'Riley** at link@firstlight.net.

Advertising in In-Fur-Nation: For those who've been asking,

ads in In-Fur-Nation come in these sizes: 1/8-page "business card" size for \$5.00 per issue, and 1/4-page size (4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide) for \$10.00 per issue. Full-page inclusions can also be arranged for \$50.00 an issue. Check should be made out to Furry Stuff. Send camera-ready art and text to P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958, or send email to mink@firstlight.net.

(Many thanks to Darrel Exline, Fred Patten, Stego, Mark Merlino, and all the people who helped provide information for this issue both by mail and via Internet! Invaluable help was also received from the web masters of the various furry conventions out there.)

Fish are Friends, Not Food! [The reformed sharks' club, from Disney/Pixar's *Finding Nemo*]

ConFurence 2003 – The Furry West!

ConFurence 2003 (held last April) brought more than 500 furry fans from around the globe back to Burbank (home of both Disney and Warner Brothers Studios), and once again the Burbank Airport Hilton Hotel was our gracious host. So much familiar... and so much new. Once again ConFurence was brought to you through the courtesy of co-chairs Darrel Exline and Zsane Klinkler. Here's a quick look back at some of the cool happenings

They Had Special Guests...

A lot of special guests, in fact! And that's just counting the Guests of Honor. Honoring furry fandom's history, CF 2003 welcomed long-time furry sculptors **Reuben Avila** and **Roy D. Pounds III** – Roy also famous for his furry illustrations in numerous fanzines and comics, of course. For more from the comics world, CF 2003 welcomed two professionals: **Joe Staton**, a legend in the comics industry, who created *E-Man* and who worked as an artist on comic as diverse as *Gargoyles* and *Scoby Doo*; and **Dark Natasha**, famous for her comics, her prints, and her comic book covers! More in the realm of fine art, CF welcomed **Theresa Mather**, a local artist whose work has appeared at numerous SF conventions – and on carousels! Rounding out the Guest of Honor list were two well-known performers: **Leslie Fish**, filk singer and song-writer famous for her songs – and her cats! And returning to CF again – this time as a Guest of Honor – was **Omaha Sternberg**, dancer and originator of the famous Cabaret Fur le Dance. And nowadays, prominent game programmer. That's one heck of a line-up for guest speakers – and they're not the only ones who were there!

You'll be sorry if you missed 'em!

Floyd Norman, animation story-man and comic strip creator for many decades (from *Sleeping Beauty* through *Finding Nemo*) came by to discuss his long career and his recent Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Animated Film Society. Also from the animation industry, **Charles Zembillas** (founder of the Animation Academy and character designer for *Spyro the Dragon* et al) brought along **Stephen Silver** (character designer for Disney's *Kim Possible*) for a series of lectures for the would-be animators among us. **Milton Knight**, creator of *Hugo* from MU Press, came by to meet the fans and do sketches. And frequent guest **Jynn Magon** (you know, the animation writer!) returned to join up with **Kevin Andrew Murphy** and **Niall Shapero** for a workshop on writing for

furry characters. And the audiences loved 'em all!

The Furies Pranced...

The fursuit makers demanded an impromptu Fursuit Presentation on Saturday, and they got it! Add to that not one, but two fursuit parades through the convention: One for the grown-up furs, and one for the little furs from the Cub Room to show off what they'd learned to make! That night, our special guest DJ's **George Krstic**, **Jody Schaeffer**, and **Chris Prynosi** (collectively the creators of MTV's *Low Brow* and *Downtown*) spun the tunes (toons?) for the Fursuit Dance. Many thanks go to **Tim Fay**, **John Cawley**, and all their crew for putting together the fursuit program.

They Sang and Danced...

Friday night, after the Popular Furry Filk Contest (won by **Ian Martyn** for his song *Wolfe Shorts*), furry author and filker **Michael H. Payne** got to perform his well-known songs – including *Coyote Yodel*, which had already won the Judges' Choice Award from ConFurence 2003. After Mr. Payne, **Leslie Fish** got her chance to perform a whole set – which it takes to get a proper feel for her work, given the number of songs that she's written! Meanwhile, across the way, **D.J. Hatch** spun the tunes for the dancers to shake their tails!

Saturday night brought the return of the famous Cabaret Fur le Dance, the adults-only show for charity (this time around, for the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound in northern L.A. County). Hosted ably by a unicorn (we mean that!), featuring **Omaha**, sword dancing, belly dancing, Bean dancing – 'scuze us, Legume dancing! – and even dancing fursuits, the show was a major hit, and it took in a good-sized wad of cash for the EFBC, too. Our thanks to Omaha Sternberg, Lynn Kurtz, Digital Panther on the sound, and everyone else involved with bringing the show off the ground!

The Songs We Sang...

Once again the famous ConFurence Furry Filk Song contest was held on Friday night, and the audience got to pick their favorite. And, once again, we're proud to present the winner here in our pages!

"Wolfe Shorts"
Music – "The Scotsman"
New Lyrics by Ian Martyn (MoogPower)

Well a Wolfe wearing shorts left his house one evening fair
And one could tell by how he walked he'd slept less than his share
He fumbled 'round til he could no longer stay awake
And he tumbled down onto his side to sleep beside a lake

Ring-ding diddle diddle i de-o
Ring dye dideley i oh
And he tumbled down onto his side to sleep beside a lake

About that time two young and hyper foxes happened by
One says to the other, with a twinkle in his eye
"See you sleeping Wolfe, asleep beside the shore?"
I wonder if he wears anything underneath his shorts."

Ring-ding diddle diddle i de-o
Ring dye didley i oh
I wonder if he wears anything underneath his shorts

They crept up on that sleeping Wolfie quiet as could be
Lifted up his shorts about an inch so they could see
And there, behold the only thing that was left to be shown
Was nothing more than he'd been graced with when he was
born

Ring-ding diddle diddle i de-o
Ring dye didley i oh
Was nothing more than he'd been graced with when he was
born

They marveled for a moment, then one said "We must be gone.
Let's leave a present for our friend before we move along"
As a gift they left a blue silk ribbon tied in to a bow
Then they shoved him in the lake so that it would really show

Ring-ding diddle diddle i de-o
Ring dye didley i oh
Then they shoved him in the lake so that it would really show

Now the Wolfie woke up startled and yelped very loudly
He climbs out of the freezing lake and gawks at what he sees
In a startled voice he says, to what's before his eyes,
"Wolf, I don't know where ya been, but I see you've won first
prize"

Ring-ding diddle diddle i de-o
Ring dye didley i oh
"Wolf, I don't know where ya been, but I see you've won first
prize"

The Future of Furry Fandom in Southern California

Oo, big topic. As many have heard, after bringing ConFurence into the 21st Century in a big way, **Darrel Exline** and The ConFurence Group are taking a break from running furry conventions. The Group still exists, and is still in place to promote anthropomorphic events. But exactly what kind of events, and where and when, is currently in flux. Keep your eyes on these pages, and also on www.confurence.net, for more information about what the CF Group will be doing for the fandom.

The Ursa Major Awards (for the Best in Anthropomorphics 2002)

The Ursa Major Awards are Anthropomorphic (a.k.a. Furry) Fandom's equivalents of s-f fandom's Hugo Awards, mystery fandom's Anthony Awards, horror fandom's Bram Stoker Awards, and so forth. The Ursa Majors are administered by a group of dedicated fans (namely **Rod O'Riley**, **Fred Patten**, and **Kay Shapero**) and presented by The ConFurence Group, a membership organization dedicated to promoting anthropomorphic fandom-related events. Nominations for the awards are open to the public, but voting on the final ballot was limited to members ConFurence. The physical award plaque

was designed by one of ConFurence's Artist Guests-of-Honor, **Roy D. Pounds II**.

Eligibility in nine categories is for works featuring intelligent &/or talking animals first published during the calendar year in question (in this case, January through December of 2002). This can include new compilations of older works, such as a new collection of previously published separate works. The winners were chosen by popular vote among the ConFurence's membership from five finalists in each category.

And the Ursa Major winners for 2002 were:

- **Best Anthropomorphic Motion Picture** – *Lilo & Stich* (Walt Disney Pictures, released in June of 2002)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Television Series** – *Greg the Bunny* (Steven Levitan Productions)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Novel** – *Rescue Ferrets at Sea*, by **Richard Bach** (Scribner/Ferret House Press)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Short Story** – "Familiars", by **Michael H. Payne** (in *Sword and Sorceress XIX*, edited by **Marion Zimmer Bradley**)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Other Literary Work** – *Ozy and Millie IV: Authentic Banana Dye*, by **David Simpson** (from Plan Nine Publishing)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Comic Book or Strip** – *Usagi Yojimbo*, by **Stan Sakai** (Dark Horse, monthly comic book)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Fanzine** – *Yarf!* (Published by **Jeff Ferris** & others)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Published Illustration** – **Dark Natasha** (*Natasha Mleynek*) for the front cover of *Furnough #109* (published by Radio Comix)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Game** – *Star Fox Adventures* (designed by Rare, Ltd. and published by Nintendo)

Congratulations to each of the winners! **Michael H. Payne**, **Stan Sakai**, and **Kris Kreutzman** (from *Yarf*) were on hand to accept their awards at ConFurence on Friday night, and **Dark Natasha** was presented her award in the Den of Dealers the next day. ConFurence accepted the awards on behalf of the other winners, to be presented to them later. From the Ursa Major Awards staff: Our thanks to the many folks who helped to set up the awards, and our special thanks to everyone who sent in nominations or voted!

With ConFurence on hiatus, the Ursa Major Awards are continuing on their own. Suggestions for the Recommended Reading and Viewing List (called "Fur Your Consideration") are always being taken, and the current list can be viewed at <http://home.earthlink.net/~kayshapero/ReadList.htm> along with information on changes in the award categories, and where to send recommendations. Or, write to: The Ursa Major Awards, c/o Fred Patten, 11863 West Jefferson Boulevard, Culver City,

California 90230-6322 to send recommendations or request more information. Official nominations will open on December 1st and continue through the first week in January 2004. Keep your eyes on the next issue of *In-Fur-Nation* for more info about the 2003 Ursula Major Awards!

And here's a look at Coming Attractions...

More Furry Conventions All Around!

Here's a quick look at some of the many furry gatherings popping up around the country, and around the world... hopefully, we'll meet YOU at some of them ourselves!

Conifur Northwest 2003

The Dates: September 26-28, 2003

The Place: Sheraton Tacoma Convention Center

The Guests: Grrmvol, Artist.

Chuck Melville, Author and Artist.

Indeed, we're back again for another year! Bwahahahahaha! Err, yeah...

We have got a full program for you this year! There will be clinics, panels, readings, gaming, two dances, a masquerade, Furry Pictionary, the Ice Cream Social, the Fursuit Challenge, and a whole lot more.

Because we're still working our way out from that little fiasco with the old hotel, we didn't quite get our choice dates, but that means we get to have Conifur one week earlier this year. We're also back at the very large and plush Tacoma Sheraton and Tacoma Convention Center, and this time we don't have to share!

Hotel Info:

Official Website: <http://www.sheratontacoma.com/>

Telephone: (800) 325-3535

Room Rate: \$99.00 per night

Registration:

Pre-Registered: \$40.00

At The Door 3-Day: \$45.00

Friday Only: \$25.00

Saturday Only: \$25.00

Sunday Only: \$20.00

Non Attending: \$15.00

Sponsors: \$100.00+

Mail-in Registration can be sent to: Conifur Northwest, Attn: Registration Dept, 12819 SE 38th St, PMB 489, Bellevue, WA 98006-1395. Or, you can register on-line at www.conifur.org

Lollagazebo

A fur-friendly gaming convention on the East Coast, happening November 7 - 9, 2003. "An extraordinary gaming convention in central New Jersey, an exceptional weekend of entertainment" [Wild Gazebo Productions].

Held at the lovely Sheraton Edison Hotel Raritan Center (125

Raritan Center Parkway, Edison, New Jersey 08837, Phone: 732-225-6300). Lollagazebo features: Board Games * Collectable Card Games (CCGs) * An Exhibitor's Room * Live-Action Role-Playing Games (LARPs) * Miniatures Games * Role-Playing Games (RPGs) * RPGA Events (Role-Playing Gamers Association) * Special Events (Auctions, Live Mage Knight, a Pun Contest, etc.)

You're sure to find things that you love to play at Lollagazebo - it's perfect for a family weekend getaway, or just an exciting weekend with friends. Come meet new gamers, learn new games, and find others who love the same games you do!

The room rate for the event is **\$79.00**. Mention **Wild Gazebo Productions** when you make your reservation to receive the convention rate.

Event costs:

\$30 for a full-weekend pass if your payment is received by October 5th, 2003

\$40 for a full-weekend pass after October 5th, or at the door

Friday only: \$15

Saturday only: \$30

Sunday only: \$15

\$20 for a full-weekend pass for a child under 12 (accompanied by a parent or responsible adult). The first 20 children to register will receive Lollagazebo Fun Bag, free!

One low cost gives you a whole weekend of gaming! Once you're at the convention, there are no additional per-event fees (with the exception of certain LARPs and CCG Tournaments). Play as many games as you like, for the same low price!

GMs and Volunteers: Work 8 hours and WGP will comp your registration fee! Work 4 more hours, and receive a free convention t-shirt!

Checks should be made out to **Wild Gazebo Productions**, and mailed to:

Wild Gazebo Productions

c/o Paul Manjourides

12 Norwood Ave #2

Woodbridge, NJ 07095

All this and more helpful on-line info can be found at:

<http://www.wildgazebo.com/conventions/>

Midwest FurFest

Here's the Skinny (The Furry?): The Midwest FurFest will take place November 21st - 23rd, 2003, at The Hyatt Regency Woodfield (1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173 - Telephone (847) 605-1234, Fax (847) 605 0328)

The Guests of Honor this year are **Thomas Dye** (creator of *Newshounds*), **M.C.A. "Micah" Hogarth**, and **Jeff "Dbruin" Beedon**. Other notable attendees (and dealers!) you've heard about, too!

Pre-Registration is: \$30.00 for Full Membership until September 30, 2003

\$100.00 for Sponsorship which includes meal with Guests of Honor and T-shirt, plus more!
\$40.00 after September 30, 2003, and at the door.

Please make checks payable to "Midwest Furfest". Mail Registration with payment to: Midwest Furry Fandom, P.O. Box 3561, Urbana, IL 61803. Or, check out their web site at www.furfest.org for more information on guests, events, activities, and more!

LosCon 28

Another fur-friendly SF convention, this one put on by the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (LASFS). Guests of Honor this year include **Fred Saberhagen** (author), **Teddy Harvia** (cartoonist), **Jack L. Chalker** (author), and **Armin Shimerman** (actor on *Star Trek—Deep Space Nine*).

Loscon takes place November 28th – 30th at the Burbank Hilton – the home of ConFurence for the last three years! Find out more information about LosCon at www.loscon.org, or write to them at Loscon 30, 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601. Furies will be there – and we hope to see you too.

Coming next year – FENEC!

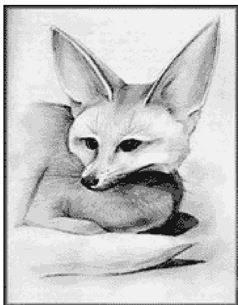
Presenting the first outdoor furry fandom convention for the West Coast, FENEC (Furries Experiencing Natural Environments, California). The first pacific furry camping trip will take place near San Clemente State Beach (Orange County), in August of 2004. Special Guests, food, fursuits, day and nighttime activities – and, of course, the beach! Space will be limited, and membership sign-ups begin soon. Keep your eyes on this space for more details, or write to them at FENEC, c/o P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958. Or, of course, you can check out their website at www.fenec.org.

[Picture c. 2000 by Richard Hoath]

Well, that's all for now – and that's a lot! Here's hoping we'll get to see you again, and soon. But it's up to you! Keep up your subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* and keep up with the world of Furry Fandom! [Rod O'Riley, your ed-otter]



Lucky, at Disney's California Adventure
(Picture c. 2003, mouseplanet.com)



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sites, conventions, and more! Woof!

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